

WASHINGTON NEWS -:- GOSSIP

By CHARLES BROOKS SMITH.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15.—When the committee on ways and means of the coming Congress starts to work framing a new protective tariff bill, as it plans to do just as soon as Congress convenes, Representative George M. Bowers, of the Second district, will find himself securely settled in a job that will leave him very little, if any time, for anything else. It will demand of him the closest sort of application for many months. Hearing bills, experts and delegations with axes to grind and logs to roll, day after day, is anything except thrilling. It is a job, too, that requires going to school and learning, and a lot of tedious study. There will be all kinds of delegations over from West Virginia and they will look to Mr. Bowers to receive them, entertain them and do the best he can to further their particular interests which, of course, he will do if their pleas are reasonable, for by doing so he will be advancing the material interests of his native state in the large. None of this new stuff, the affairs of G. M. B., and he will not let it without being more or less a "state of preparedness." He has been studying up and getting ready since he was selected as one of the experienced, successful business men members of the all-important committee on ways and means. Which fact probably accounts why Washington has seen little of him since the adjournment. He has stuck close to some in Martinsburg preparing for all of this that is to come.

The fate of the Industrial Board of the Commerce department rests in the lap of the gods; in this instance, said gods being the official personage of the President. In the meantime, the author of the Industrial Board does not rest. Under the stress he is restless. He is Hon. William M. Ritter, of Welch, W. Va., and Washington; of Washington since coming here as one of the \$1-a-year-rich-men who did so much to help the government win the war. Naturally, as the instigator of the first effort made by anybody, in our out of the government, to grapple with after-the-war reconstruction conditions, the stabilizing of prices, the stimulation of industry, taking up the slack and absorbing the shock of war's aftermath, this distinguished West Virginian feels disappointed by the way affairs have taken, due to Director Hines' opposition, and apprehensive. If exercised as Mr. Ritter hopes, the authority of the President can have the situation and the Board. Its usefulness and value can plainly be shown, if it gets the undivided and earnest support and co-operation of the government. As it stands now, thanks to the Director of Railroads, it is a very much divided support. Originally, at any rate, the Cabinet stood staunchly by it, and upon its recommendation the President cabled approval of the experimental undertaking. There was striking evidence of a desire on the part of the business interests, as well as labor, to co-operate. It was a shock when the first opposition came from the government itself, against a commission it had set up and started on its course with sanction. If this board is allowed to go out of existence, there will be nobody at all left charged with coping with the great and urgent question of post-war business and industrial rehabilitation.

William H. Zahnizer, well and popularly known to the oil fraternity in West Virginia, having for years operated from headquarters at Parkersburg, when he was a member of the firm of Boggs, Zahnizer & Steiner, has arrived in the multi-millionaire class thanks to successful oil operations in Mexico, in and about Tampico. Mr. Zahnizer lives in New York city, but business brings him to Washington frequently. Quite recently, he and his partner, Vincent, sold valuable production and oil concessions to a syndicate, said to be financed by the British government, which has acquired production, pipe lines, refineries, etc., in five states in Mexico. They let go for \$20,000,000. Mr. Zahnizer has had his ups and downs in the oil business all of his life, making fortunes and losing them and making them again. But this is his biggest "killin'." When he operated from Parkersburg, his firm opened up a valuable territory on Boggs Run, O. The last two wells he filled in Mexico, just before the sell-

out, were in the phenom class—100,000 barrels of oil a day each. William H. Zahnizer is still what may be called a young man. His is a most likeable personality as every acquaintance of his who reads this little paragraph will at once agree. He is thoroughly a democratic man. No one who knows him will be envious of his great business success. Everyone of them will be sincerely glad of it.

The West Virginia Society is the largest and the liveliest state society in Washington, and all the states have them. The organization of the Mountaineers numbers 1,000, and its monthly meetings are social centers and forums of delightful musical and literary entertainment. Not all West Virginians resident in the city belong. If all did, it would be impossible to find a hall large enough to contain them. But more and more join every meeting. At the last meeting, the Rev. George W. Atkinson, Jr., son of the former Governor Atkinson, as well as former federal judge here, who had but lately returned from doing Red Cross work abroad, delivered a most interesting account of his foreign experiences. He saw service in the front line trenches and was under fire of the enemy more times than he can remember. As a public speaker he is a chip off the old block, reminiscent in more than one mannerism of his distinguished father, who is one of the best public speakers among the long list of good ones that West Virginians proudly claim as their own. While he resided in Washington, Governor Atkinson was one of the pillars of the state society. Another entertaining and instructive address at the last meeting was by Representative Stuart F. Reed, who talked on interesting historical events in the life of the state. No less delightful were the readings given by Mr. Reed's private secretary, Miss Annie Lowe, of Clarksburg. Seldom does one office produce such an array of exceptional talent.

It is hoped by his many friends that, when Congress convenes and organizes, E. H. McDermott will be found to be in an important capacity with the organization in the Senate branch. He has bright prospects, the support of the West Virginia delegation, and that of a number of Republican Senators from various other states with whom he is on friendly terms. Mr. McDermott, a native of Wheeling, has been a resident of Washington for many years. He was for a long time employed in a secretarial capacity by the late Senator Stephen B. Elkins, and served efficiently as private secretary of Senator Nathan Goff during the whole of the latter's term of six years. Mr. McDermott knows the machinery of government from the main cog down to the ground. He is widely known in West Virginia, particularly by the Republican party leaders of every sized caliber.



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HOULT

E. L. Elects Officers.

The Epworth League elected officers for the coming year Sunday night as follows: President, Miss Gladys Watkins; first vice president, W. F. Hoult; second vice president, Mrs. Nellie Harr; third vice president, Mrs. W. H. Hall; fourth vice president, Omer Burnworth; secretary, Ruth Harr; treasurer, Erma Watkins; organist, Mrs. W. H. Hall.

Easter Program.

The Sunday school and Epworth League of the M. E. church will combine forces in an Easter program to be given at the church Sunday night. Arrangements are under the management of the committee composed of Misses Gladys Watkins and Bertha Bowman.

Serious Operation Performed.

Mrs. James E. Halbert, of this place, underwent a very serious operation at Cook hospital yesterday. She was on the operating table two hours, we understand, but came through the operation and from the influence of the ether all right and at last reports was resting easily.

Repairing B. & O. Bridge.

The camp of G. W. Lenhart's gang of bridge carpenters is in the siding at Aurora and they are busy making repairs to the big B. & O. bridge over the river here.

Progress on Connecting Line.

Progress on work of building the railroad from here to the by-products plant at Norwood has reached that stage where nothing startling can be done until a lot of preliminary work is completed. A water tank has been set up on the hill, a water line laid from the river and a boiler for pumping set up. Several carloads of lumber, gravel, and sand unloaded and a gang of men are busy digging a trench for a big concrete culvert in James Snider's field.

Briefs.

Mrs. Charles McElfresh is sick at this writing. Jas. D. Bowman is confined at home with tonsillitis. James McElfresh is visiting relatives in Monongalia county. Mr. S. J. Smith and daughter, Mrs. G. A. Spurling, with her two small children were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fred Malone, of Fairmont Sunday. Miss Gladys Watkins was visiting at Goose Creek Saturday and Sunday.

Lloyd Huffman is moving from property lately purchased by John Cleveneger. He is moving in with his mother.

Barns Class to Stage a Comedy

A very clever and well presented comedy will be given by the G. F. Barns class of the High school soon. It is named "Close to Nature" and is a farcical episode of an outing in Canadian woods, in four acts.

It will be given in the High school auditorium Friday evening April 25. An excellent cast has been rehearsing for the past several weeks, and some really fine talent has been developed. Miss Hervey of the high school faculty is directing the play.

The High school classes have always delighted their audiences with excellent plays they have presented in the past, and the remarkable talent found in the school. The Juniors expect their play to be well up to the usual high standard and to completely fill the large auditorium. Seat sale begins early next week.

Mrs. Norris Showalter, of Clarksburg, is the guest of her father, C. M. Shaw, in East Park avenue.

FARMINGTON

S. S. Rally.

A very interesting program was rendered at the Sunday school rally held in the M. E. church, south, Sunday evening. The songs by Miss Margaret Winney, Roxie and Fairy Downs and Masters William and Richard Martin were enjoyed very much by the large audience.

Messrs. J. Walter Barnes, J. M. Jacobs and Straight, of Fairmont, gave very interesting talks on Sunday school work and the Centenary movement.

This was the last rally service with F. G. Gray as president, as he is going to move to Moundsville. He has been president of Lincoln district Sunday school work for eleven years. His successor has not been named.

Improvements.

John Vargo is putting a new tin roof

on his residence in West Farmington Huffman, tinner, of Mannington, is doing the work.

Mrs. Atha and W. E. Maple are painting up this spring. Mr. Maple is painting white and Mrs. Atha cream.

Raid.

Sheriff Glover and Deputy Barrett made a raid on a house here where whiskey was supposed to be, but nothing but empty bottles could be found.

Among the Sick.

A. L. Berry and little daughter are confined to their home on account of the mumps. E. Cunningham is sick at his home in Ireland addition.

Dr. Coombs.

Dr. Larkin Coombs, cancer specialist of Norland, Va., is calling on his many friends here.

From Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Norris have just returned from visiting the latter's relatives in Virginia. Mrs. Norris was raised in Virginia.

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Entertainment.

John Ross Reed will give an entertainment consisting of songs, readings, slight of hand tricks and ventriloquism at the Farmington High school auditorium Wednesday evening, April 16, at eight o'clock. This will be Mr. Reed's last appearance before going to France to entertain the soldier boys.

Personals.

Robert Griffith is out of the hospital. He was hurt at No. 9 mine about two months ago.

Miss Helen Adams and Mrs. Carl.

with Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart at Ida May.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Toothman and Henry Morgan were visiting Wilbur Morgan Sunday. Misses Mary and Francis Quinn, of Downs, were visiting friends here. Mrs. Price, of Grafton, was visiting her father, Mr. E. D. Morgan, of near James Fork.

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